104-10406-10118

Washington Post, 18 November 1976

JFK ACT
12-23-98
RELEASE

Bush Is Skeptical Of 'Hoover Memo'

OKLAHOMA CITY, Nov. 17 (UPI)— Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush said Tuesday he does not believe newspaper reports that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wrote a memo claiming Lee Harvey Oswald had contacted Cuba prior to President Kennedy's assassination.

"It's my information that such a memo does not exist," Bush told student leaders from about 20 colleges.

Bush predicted the memo would be proven fake or nonexistent. He said other allegations against his own agency have turned out to be false on investigation.

Bush admitted the CIA had been guilty of abuse of power, but defended the need for an intelligence-gathering agency, covert operations and spying in other countries.

The CIA director answered questions about possible CIA involvement in several non-Communist countries where torture and prosecution of political prisoners has been reported by saying he was concerned as well about torture and political prisoners in North Korea, Vietnam, the Soviet Union, Cambodia and elsewhere.

"I just can't understand the selectivity of the moral outrage," he said.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAI
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

27 NOV 1976

Hill Panel Probing Oswald Call

By Ronald Kessler
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Select Committee on Assassinations last night subpoenaed retired Central Intelligence Agency officer David A. Phillips to question him about a telephone call made by Lee Harvey Oswald to the Soviet embassy in Mexico City eight weeks before President Kennedy's assassination.

A committee source said Phillips, who heads the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers, which is a leading defender of the CIA, was subpoenaed to testify within a few days before a closed session of the committee's unit investigating the Kennedy assassination.

Phillips was questioned informally last night by committee investigators in the committee's offices. He may testify as early as today, according to a source.

Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel of the full committee, said yesterday that it has launched an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the telephone call as reported in yesterday's editions of The Washington Post.

The Post story said that the CIA intercepted and tape-recorded Oswald's call to the Soviet embassy in late September, 1963, but did not turn it over to the FBI, which has responsibility for investigating possible spies. It also did not turn it over to the Warren Commission during its investigation of the Kennedy assassination, The Post said.

Instead, the CIA gave the FBI a brief report that did not mention Oswald's offer of information, but said only that Oswald had contacted the Soviet embassy, The Post said. The CIA later provided the Warren Commission and the Senate intelligence committee, which investigated the Kennedy assassination earlier this year, with transcripts of Oswald's call that omitted his offer of information in exchange for a trip to the Soviet Union.

There is no evidence that Oswald's offer of information was accepted by the Soviets. Oswald later did refer in a letter, first made public by the Warren Commission, to 'meetings" in the Soviet embassy.

After the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, the CIA claimed that it was not aware of most of Oswald's activities in Mexico City before the assassination because Oswald had not mentioned his name in this and other conversations with the Soviet and Cuban embassies there.

However, Phillips, who saw the CIA transcripts of Oswald's conversations before the assassination, the CIA translator in charge of preparing the transcripts and the typist who prepared them each told The Post that Oswald had mentioned his name in the conversations.

They also said Oswald was offering information to the Soviets and requesting a free trip to Russia.

Since the CIA claims that the tapes of Oswald's calls were destroyed about a week after the conversations took place, few individuals have personal knowledge of what was said.

The CIA has declined to comment.

In addition to obtaining Phillips' testimony, a House assassination committee source said the panel intends to identify and interview the CIA translator and typist, who were interviewed by The Post in Mexico.

Panel Asked to Investigate Killing of Panther Leader

United Press International

The House Select Committee on Assassinations yesterday was asked to investigate the 1969 killing of Chicago Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton on grounds he was set up by the FBI through an informer and "murdered" in a raid carried out by a special force of the Chicago police.

Morton H. Halperin, a former staff member of the National Security Council and now director of projects in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union, requested action in a letter to Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel and staff director of the newly formed House panel.

Halperin said FBI complicity was established by documents and information that came to light during the $47.5 million civil damage suit against federal, state and local authorities now underway in Chicago. The suit was filed by relatives of Hampton and Mark Clark, another Black Panther member killed in the raid on their apartment.

Chicago police have said the raid was carried out to confiscate weapons held by the Panthers and that police fired their guns in response to shots from the apartment's occupants.

Halperin said that a resolution setting up the House panel to investigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. also authorized the committee to probe the deaths "of any others the select committee shall determine."

DAVID A. PHILLIPS
. . . CIA ex-officer subpoenaed to testify

Oswald Offered Soviets Data for Trip

Star Associated Press 26 NOV 1976

A retired CIA agent says he recalls that several weeks before President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald offered to give the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City information in exchange for a trip to Russia.

David A. Phillips, a former CIA officer in Mexico who now heads the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers, said in a telephone interview last night:

"My general recollection is that he (Oswald) wanted to go to the Soviet Union via Cuba, and as part of that he said he might have some information useful to them."

Phillips, who recently retired from the agency in order to defend the agency against its critics, declined to say where he had obtained that information, other than to say "I was aware what was going on."

However, it was first reported more than a year ago, and later confirmed by Senate intelligence committee chairman Frank Church, that the CIA wiretapped and recorded a Sept. 28, 1963, conversation that Oswald had with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City from a telephone in the Cuban Embassy there.

Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and the Warren Commission determined that Oswald was the sole assassin.

It has been known that Oswald went to the Mexico City embassies in an attempt to obtain a travel visa that would permit him to enter the Soviet Union by way of Cuba.

The Washington Post reported in today's editions that a CIA interpreter and a stenographer who worked on the transcript of Oswald's telephone conversation also recalled that Oswald had offered unspecified information in exchange for a paid trip to the Soviet Union.

But the Post said the Warren Commission, for undetermined reasons, was not given that segment of the transcript. And it said the FBI, which is responsible for espionage investigations, also was told only in a general way that Oswald had made contact with the Soviet Embassy.

The Nation

Did Oswald Talk About JFK Slaying?

Did Lee Harvey Oswald tell Cuban officials shortly before the assassination of President Kennedy, that he was going to kill the President?

According to a senior source at the Justice Department, former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wrote a memo in 1964 saying that he was told so by a highly reliable informant who was supposed to have gotten the story from Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

While the memo apparently does not identify the informant, Oswald was known to have visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City about a month before the assassination, and, according to recently released CIA documents, he had been in contact with three of Castro's suspected intelligence agents. The Justice Department source said Hoover's memo was addressed to the Warren Commission, but there is no record of its having been delivered to the commission.

14 NOV 1976

Stat

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 30

THE NEW YORK TIMES
14 November 1976

House Unit Will Get Memo Telling Of Oswald's Plan to Kill Kennedy

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 — A 1964 memorandum saying that Lee Harvey Oswald told Cuban officials he was going to kill President Kennedy more than a month before the assassination is part of a packet of new material found in Government files that will be turned over to a special Congressional investigating committee, reliable Government sources said today.

Edward H. Levi, the atorney general, has imposed a curtain of extraordinary secrecy over the search of Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation files in connection with the assassination inquiry.

The file search was begun at the request of the House Select Committee on Assassinations formed earlier this year to re-investigate the deaths of President Kennedy and of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights leader.

First Meeting To Be Held Monday

The committee will hold its first formal meeting on Monday. Its chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague, is expected to recommend that a staff of 170 lawyers and trained homicide detectives conduct the two investigations.

The committee was formed after a subcommittee of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence reported earlier this year that it had discovered evidence that raised serious questions about whether the commission, headed by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren, that investigated Mr. Kennedy's death received full and complete information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Central Intelligence Agency.

The newly discovered memorandum was prepared in 1964, well after Mr. Kennedy was killed. It was prepared for J. Edgar Hoover, then the director of the F.B.I. One usually reliable source said it was prepared to be "sent" to the Warren Commission. Another source, however, said it may not have been intended as a formal memorandum to the commission but rather as "some other kind of informal contact."

In substance the memorandum states that the F.B.I. Director had learned from a reliable informant that Lee Harvey Oswald had told Cuban officials more than a month before Mr. Kennedy's assassination that he planned to kill the American President.

Evidence of Cuban Backing

The informant, according to the memorandum, said that he had learned of Mr. Oswald's plan from Fidel Castro, the Cuban Premier. If this were true, it would be the strongest evidence yet found that Mr. Oswald had had Cuban backing in his assassination attempt.

A senior F.B.I. official said privately that there was "no implication whatsoever" from the newly discovered memorandum that Mr. Hoover knew about the assassination before it happened. The memorandum refers to information obtained by the F.B.I. during the investigation in 1964.

David W. Belin, a member of the Warren Commission staff and later director of the staff that investigated the Central Intelligence Agency for the Ford Administration, said that "to his knowledge" the Warren Commission had never received a document from the F.B.I. with so explicit a piece of information based upon a "reliable informant."

Source In Cuban Government

John A. McCone, who was director of the C.I.A. during the Kennedy Administration, has been quoted in news accounts as saying that he never knew of such information.

The C.I.A. had developed a source within the top levels of the Cuban Government in 1961 whom it had dubbed AMLASH and who had been in frequent close contact with Premier Castro.